



Repairs to St John's College,  
1934

68.63

#### **c.44.6 : St John's Street**

**1910**

1910 12 09 CWN

Through the enterprise of Mr W.J. Ison, the Cambridge public is able to see the latest developments in bicycles as exhibited at the great cycle exhibition at Olympia, London. In the windows of his depots in Chesterton Road and St John's Street are to be seen samples of the all-steel Raleigh cycles which attained such wide fame. Doubtless many local cyclists will take the opportunity of inspecting these latest models of all that is best and most modern in the bicycle – 10 02 09c

**1933**

1933 12 30

Chesterton RDC is to transfer their headquarters from St John's Street to a floor of the old County Hall in Hobson Street. It is possible the new West Cambs RDC would also take offices and share the council chamber. Councillors decided that six houses at Rooks Lane, Cottenham were slum property and should be demolished as should four cottages in Lambs Lane even though they were watertight and the owner, who was over 80, spent most of his old age pension in keeping them in repair. 33 12 30

1934 08 28

The renovations to St John's College have been the subject of much comment in 'The Times'. It was suggested that the two turrets at the front were in imminent danger of falling away from the main tower because of a system of main drainage 30 years ago when a trench 30 feet deep was dug along the street. But there is no evidence of settlement due to foundation trouble. The walls had shattered because of vibrations caused by street traffic. 34 08 28

1936 01 08

An amazing roof collapse awakened residents in Broad Street, East Road, shortly after midnight. When they rushed into the street they found that the whole of the roof of a storehouse and garage belonging to Messrs Whitehead, the fruiterers, had crashed down on the contents of the building. It is thought the long-continued rain and damp weather may have affected the wooden beams. One of the three lorries in the building had the engine badly knocked about and some boxes of fruit were smashed by beams and tiles. It is said that when the old All Saints Church opposite St John's College was pulled down, the stone was auctioned off and many loads of it went into the building of this store house 36 01 08

1937 03 04

Miss Lilian Clarke gave a lantern lecture on 'Lady Margaret and her two colleges' in the Reference Room of the Central Library. She drew on her wonderful store of knowledge of bygone Cambridge with many interesting anecdotes that kept her large audience entertained. Recently it has been found that the main gate of St John's College was being rattled down by the heavy lorries which passed through the narrow streets every night. It will be necessary to rebuild, but there are problems in getting bricks to match 37 03 04

1938 04 30

The proposed new buildings for St John's College involve the immediate erection of buildings to complete the present Chapel Court with wings projecting beyond to the north and east. These should be ready for occupation by Michaelmas 1939, including 50 undergraduates and ten fellows' sets of rooms. There will be an open court facing Bridge Street should the houses eventually be taken down and the road widened and ultimately a riverside court overlooking Magdalene 38 04 30 & a

1938 03 05

Part of Sidney Street was closed to traffic following the development of a bulge in the front wall of the premises of Austin & Co., coal merchants. The bulge is sufficiently marked to be easily visible. Last night crowds gathered in the expectation that the wall might fall, but they were disappointed. In shops on either side it was a case as 'business as usual'. Traffic has been diverted via Petty Cury and St John's Street while builders work on the affected wall 38 03 05 & a

## **1940**

1947 01 14

One-way traffic extension scheme – Sidney Street, St John's Street, p5

1948 06 01

Today the one-way traffic system designed to relieve congestion in the centre of Cambridge came into operation. In Sidney Street and Bridge Street the traffic will flow in a northerly direction towards Magdalene Street from the town centre, while in St John's Street and Trinity Street it will flow in a southerly direction towards King's Parade. In Green Street traffic will flow in one direction from Gifford Place to Trinity Street - and the remainder of Green Street will be open for two-way traffic. This extension of "one-way" traffic will link up with the system now in operation at St Mary's street, Market Hill (north side) and Market Street

1948 06 04 c

Sir - the one-way system has certainly created danger spots at the corner of St John's Street, Cambridge. They could be remedied by putting traffic lights there back into operation. The only alternative would be to divert all traffic into Petty Cury. Every user of Petty Cury will have to agree that it is already far too narrow even for the present volume of traffic - pedestrians are crowded into the roadway and bus drivers often have their work cut out to squeeze their buses through at walking pace. Short of some more radical plan (e.g. banning all motor traffic from the streets round Market Hill) I think the one-way system is as good as we shall get - A.E.B. Owen

## **1950**

1958 03 28

The Koh-i-Noor restaurant has been in St John's Street since 1936, the owner, Krishna Vir, told magistrates. Now they wanted a licence to sell beer and cider. They provided 700 meals a week and to send out for drinks from the Mitre or Baron of Beef took too much time. Dr Glyn Daniel, a Fellow of St John's College, said he occasionally visited and would like to be able to get a drink of beer 'when the curries are very hot'. 58 03 28

## **1982**

1982 09 30

The chapel bell at St John's College has been tolled by hand since the 17th century. But now the college porters will no longer have to climb the 30 steps in the gatehouse at six o'clock every day, and twice on Sundays, to summon the congregation to prayer. Engineers have installed an electronic control unit so the bells can ring out at the touch of a switch. Bob Fuller, the head porter, said "I have just celebrated 30 years of working at the college and this is the best present." 82 09 30b

1985 03 21

Pipe smokers and cigar lovers will welcome a specialist shop which will fill the gap left by the closure of Bacons in 1983. Harrison and Simmonds, which was founded in Bedford in 1928, is taking the shop at 17 St John's Street, Cambridge. The fixtures and fittings have the traditional look offering a standard of service that matches the timeless quality such a store should have. Customers will be able to try tobacco from all over the world labelled with Dickensian names such as Barnaby Rudge and Pickwick and the shop offers hand-blending to give the pipe smoker optimum choice and also stock a wide range of fine pens. 85 03 21b